

MID

the first and superior of these arises from the sternum, and the ends of the last ribs on each side: its fibres, from this semicircular origination, tend towards their centre, and terminate in a tendon or aponeurosis, which hath always been taken for the nervous part of the *midriff*. The second and inferior muscle comes from the vertebrae of the loins by two productions, of which that on the right side comes from the first, second, and third vertebrae of the loins; that on the left side is somewhat shorter; and both these productions join and make the lower part of the *midriff*, which joins its tendons with the tendon of the other, so as that they make but one membrane, or rather partition.

Quincy.

Whereat he inly rag'd, and as they talk'd,
Smote him into the *midriff* with a stone

That beat out life. *Milton's Par. Lost*, b. xi.
In the gullet, where it perforates the *midriff*, the carious fibres of that muscular part are infected.

Ray.

MID-SEA. *n. f.* [*mid* and *sea*.] The Mediterranean sea.

Our Tyrrhene Pharos, that the *mid-sea* meets

Dryden.

MIDSHIPMAN. *n. f.* [*from mid*, *ship*, and *man*.]

Midshipmen are officers aboard a ship, whose station, when they are on duty, is some on the quarter-deck, others on the poop, &c. Their business is to mind the braces, to look out, and to give about the word of command from the captain and other superior officers: they also assist on all occasions, both in sailing the ship, and in storing and rummaging the hold. They are usually young gentlemen, who having served their time as volunteers, are now upon their preferment.

Harris.

MIDST. *n. f.* Middle.

All is well when nothing pleases but God, being thankful in the *midst* of his afflictions.

Taylor's Guide to Devotion.

Arise, ye subtle spirits, that can spy

When love is enter'd in a female's eye;

You that can read it in the *midst* of doubt,

And in the *midst* of frowns can find it out.

Dryden.

MIDST. *adj.* [*contracted from midst*, the superlative of *mid*.]

Midmost; being in the middle.

On earth join all ye creatures to extol

Him first, Him last, Him *midst*, and without end. *Milton*.

In the Slighted Maid, there is nothing in the first act but what might have been said or done in the fifth; nor any thing in the *midst* which might not have been placed in the beginning.

Dryden's Dufresnoy.

MIDSTREAM. *n. f.* [*mid* and *stream*.] Middle of the stream.

The *midstream*'s his; I creeping by the side,

And shoulder'd off by his impetuous tide.

Dryden.

MIDSUMMER. *n. f.* [*mid* and *summer*.] The summer solstice, popularly reckoned to fall on June the twenty-fourth.

However orthodox my sentiments relating to publick affairs may be while I am now writing, they may become criminal enough to bring me into trouble before *Midsommer*.

Swift.

At eve last *Midsommer* no sleep I fought. *Gay's Past.*

MIDWAY. *n. f.* [*mid* and *way*.] The part of the way equally distant from the beginning and end.

No midway 'twixt these extremes at all.

He were an excellent man that were made in the midway

between him and Benedick; the one is too like an image,

and says nothing; and the other too like my lady's eldest son,

evermore tattling.

Shakespeare. Much ado about nothing.

Pity and shame! that they, who to live well

stood so fair, should turn aside to tread

paths indirect, or in the midway faint! *Milton's Par. Lost*.

The hare laid himself down about midway, and took a nap; for I can fetch up the tortoise when I please.

L'Estrange's Fables.

How didst thou arrive at this place of darkness, when

so many rivers of the ocean lie in the midway.

Broome's Notes on the Odyssey.

MIDWAY. *adj.* Middle between two places.

How fearful

And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low!

The crows and choughs that wing the midway air,

Shew scarce so gross as beetles.

Shakespeare.

MIDWAY. *adv.* In the middle of the passage.

With dry eyes, and with an open look,

She met his glance midway.

Dryden's Boocace.

MIDWIFE. *n. f.* [*This is derived, both by Skinner and Junius, from mid or med, a reward, and pif, Saxon.*] A woman who assists women in childbirth.

When man doth die, our body, as the womb,

And as a *midwife*, death directs it home.

Without a *midwife* these their throws sustain,

And bowing, bring their issue forth with pain.

There saw I how the secret felon wrought,

And treason lab'ring in the traitor's thought,

And *midwife* time the ripen'd plot to murder brought.

Dryden's Knight's Tale.

I had as clear a notion of the relation of brothers between them, as if I had all the skill of a *midwife*.

Locke.

MIG

But no man, sure! e'er left his house

And fadd'd ball with thoughts so wild,

To bring a *midwife* to his spouse,

Before he knew the was with child.

Prior.

MIDWIFERY. *n. f.* [*from midwife*.]

1. Assistance given at childbirth.

2. Act of production; help to production; co-operation in production.

So hasty fruits, and too ambitious flows,

Scorning the *midwifery* of rip'ning shows,

In spite of frosts, spring from th' unwilling earth. *Stepney*.

There was never any thing propounded for publick good,

that did not meet with opposition; arising from the humour of

such as would have nothing brought into the world but by their

own *midwifery*. *Child's Discourse on Trade.*

3. Trade of a midwife.

MIDWINTER. *n. f.* [*mid* and *winter*.] The winter solstice.

Begin when the slow waggoner descends,

Nor cease your sowing till *Midwinter* ends.

Mien. *n. f.* [*mine*, French.] Air; look; manner.

In her alone that owns this book is seen

Clorinda's spirit, and her lofty *mien*.

What can have more the figure and *mien* of a ruin than

craggs, rocks, and cliffs. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

One, in whom an outward *mien* appear'd,

And turn superior to the vulgar herd.

What winning graces, what majestic *mien*,

She moves a goddess, and the looks a queen.

Might, the preterite of *may*. *Pope*.

Matters of such consequence should be in plain words, as

little liable as *might* be to doubt.

MIGHT. *n. f.* [*might*, Saxon.] Power; strength; force.

What so strong,

But wanting rest, will also want *might*.

Quoth she, great grief will not be told,

And can more easily be thought than said;

Right so, quoth he, but he that never would,

Could never; will to *might* gives greatest aid.

An oath of mickle *might*. *Fa. Qu.*

Wherefore should not strength and *might*

There fail, where virtue fails. *Milton's Par. Lost*, b. vi.

With *might* and main they chae'd the murderous fox,

With brazen trumpets and inflated box.

This privilege the clergy in England formerly contended

for with all *might* and main. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

MIGHTILY. *adv.* [*from mighty*.]

1. With great power; powerfully; efficaciously; forcibly.

With whom ordinary means will prevail, surely the power

of the word of God, even without the help of interpreters,

in God's church worketh *mightily*, not unto their confirma-

tion alone which are converted, but also to their conversion

which are not. *Hooker, b. v.*

2. Vehemently; vigorously; violently.

Do as adversaries do in law, strive *mightily*, but eat

and drink as friends. *Shakespeare.*

3. In a great degree; very much. This is a fence scarcely

to be admitted but in low language.

Therein thou wrong'dst thy children *mightily*.

There's ne'er a one of you but trusts a knave.

That *mightily* deceives you. *Shakespeare. Titus Andronicus.*

An ass and an ape conferring grievances: the ass complain-

ed *mightily* for want of horns, and the ape for want of a tail.

L'Estrange's Fables.

These happenings nearer home made so lasting impressions

upon their minds, that the tradition of the old deluge was

mightily obscured, and the circumstances of it interwoven

and confounded with those of these later deluges. *Woodward.*

I was *mightily* pleas'd with a story applicable to this piece

of philosophy. *Spectator*, N^o. 578.

MIGHTINESS. *n. f.* [*from mighty*.] Power; greatness; height

of dignity.

Think you see them great,

And follow'd with gen'ral throng and sweat

Of thousand friends; then in a moment see,

How soon this *mightiness* meets misery! *Shak. Henry VIII.*

Will't please your *mightiness* to wash your hands? *Shak.*

MIGHTY. *adj.* [*from might*.]

1. Powerful; strong.

Nimrod began to be a *mighty* one in the earth. *Gen. x. 8.*

Great is truth, and *mighty* above all things. *1 Efd. iv. 41.*

He is wise in heart and *mighty* in strength. *Jas. ii. 1.*

2. Excellent, or powerful in any act.

The *mighty* master smil'd.

MIGHTY. *adv.* In a great degree. Not to be used but in

very low language.

Lord of his new hypothesis he reigns;

He reigns; How long? Till some usurper rise,

And he too *mighty* thoughtful, *mighty* wise:

Studies new lines. *Prior.*

MIGRATION. *n. f.* [*migratio*, *migre*, Lat.] Act of changing

place. *Aristotle*

MIL

Aristotle distinguisheth their times of generation, latancy,

and migration, fanity, and venation. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

Although such alterations, transitions, migrations of the

centre of gravity, and elevations of new islands, had actually

happened, yet these shells could never have been reposed

thereby in the manner we find them. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

MILCH. *adj.* [*from milk*.] Giving milk.

Herne doth, at still of midnight,

Walk round about an oak, with ragged horns;

And then he blasts the tree, and takes the cattle,

And makes *milk* kine yield blood. *Shakespeare.*

When the saw Pyrrhus make malicious sports,

The instant burst of clamour that the made,

Would have made *milk* the burning eyes of heav'n. *Shak.*

The best mixtures of water in ponds for cattle, to make

them more *milk*, fatten, or keep them from murrain, may

be chalk and nitre. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.* N^o. 778.

Not above fifty-one have been starved, excepting infants

at nurse, caused rather by carelessness and infirmity of the

milk women. *Graunt's Bills of Mortality.*

With the turneps they feed sheep, *milk*-cows, or fattening

cattle. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

MILD. *adj.* [*mild*, Saxon.]

1. Kind; tender; good; indulgent; merciful; compassionate;

clement; soft; not severe; not cruel.

The execution of justice is committed to his judges, which

is the feverer part; but the *milder* part, which is mercy, is

wholly left in the king. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

If that *mild* and gentle god thou be,

Who dost mankind below with pity see.

It teaches us to adore him as a *mild* and merciful being, of

infinite love to his creatures. *Rogers's Sermons.*

2. Soft; gentle; not violent.

The rosy morn renews her light,

And *milder* glory to the noon.

Nothing reserv'd or fullen was to see,

But sweet regards, and pleasing fancy;

Mild was his accent, and his action free. *Dryden.*

Sylvia's like autumn ripe, yet *mild* as May,

More bright than noon, yet fresh as early day.

The folding gates diffus'd a silver light,

And with a *milder* gleam refresh'd the light.

3. Not acrid; not corrosive; not acrimonious; demulcent;

assuasive; mollifying; lenitive.

Their qualities are changed by rendering them acrimonious

or *mild*. *Arsenal on Aliments.*

4. Not sharp; mellow; sweet; having no mixture of acidity.

The Irish were transplanted from the woods and mountains

into the plains, that, like fruit trees, they might grow the

milder, and bear the better and sweeter fruit. *Davies.*

Suppose your eyes sent equal rays

Upon two distant pots of ale,

Not knowing which was *mild* or stale.

MILDERNAX. *n. f.* Cannabum nauticum.

MILDEW. *n. f.* [*milceape*, Saxon.]

Mildew is a disease that happens in plants, and is caused

by a dewy moisture which falls on them, and continuing, for

want of the sun's heat, to draw it up, by its acrimony cor-

rodes, gnaws, and spoils, the inmost substance of the plant,

and hinders the circulation of the nutritive sap; upon which

the leaves begin to fade, and the blossoms and fruit are much

prejudiced; or, *mildew* is rather a concrete substance, which

exudes through the pores of the leaves. What the garden-

ers commonly call *mildew* is an insect, which is frequently

found in great plenty, preying upon this exudation. Others

say, that *mildew* is a thick, clammy vapour, exhaled in the

Spring and Summer from the plants, blossoms, and even the

earth itself, in close, still weather, where there is neither sun

enough to draw it upwards to any considerable height, nor wind

of force strong enough to disperse it: it condenses and falls on

plants, and with its thick, clammy substance stops the pores, and

by that